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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 10/533,609  
Applicant : Shin ISHIKAWA et al  
Filed : May 11, 2005  
TC/A.U. : 1795  
Confirm. No.: 1780  
Examiner : Gregg CANTELMO  
Docket No. : 05259/HG  
Customer No.: 01933

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**BOX AMENDMENT**

S I R :

This is in response to the Office Action of November 19,  
2008 which is a restriction requirement under 35 USC 121 and 372.

Restriction requirement between:

"Group I claim(s) 1-5 and 7-16, drawn to stainless steel  
compositions.

Group II claim(s) 17-31, drawn to a PEM fuel cell having a  
stainless steel separator plate."

The invention of Group I, namely claims 1-5 and 7-16 is  
provisionally elected.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

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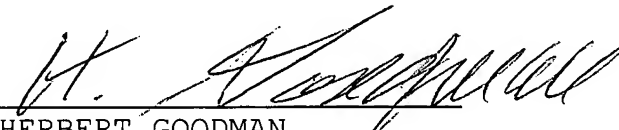
Attorney: Herbert Goodman

Dated: December 3, 2008

In the event that this Paper is late  
filed, and the necessary petition for  
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connection with this Paper to Account  
No. 06-1378.

The restriction requirement is traversed on the basis that the fuel cell specified in each of claims 17-31 is characterized by the novel and unobvious stainless steel separator which is dependent from respective Group I stainless steel compositions. When the claims directed to the stainless steel compositions are allowed, it is respectfully requested that the Group II claims be rejoined on the basis that such claims cannot be obvious taking into consideration that the stainless steel separator specified therein is itself novel and unobvious.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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HG/lpv